



Introduction to the Wisconsin PHEP:

Public Health Emergency Plan



Department of Health and Family Services
Division of Public Health
and
The Wisconsin Public Health
Preparedness Consortia

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Learning Objectives

- Define Public Health Preparedness.
- Explain the purpose of the PHEP.
- Describe a public health emergency.
- Describe the steps to activate the PHEP.
- Summarize the sections of the PHEP.
- Explain the role of the LPHD as defined in the PHEP.



What is Public Health Preparedness

Public health preparedness is preparing the public health workforce to effectively and efficiently respond to an act of bioterrorism, other infectious disease outbreaks or other public health threats and emergencies. To provide for the optimal health of the public, competencies are being increased in these areas:

- **Emergency Response Capacity**

- Public Health Emergency Plan, Mass Clinic Plan, border state planning, integration of response plans, mutual aid

- **Epidemiology Capacity**

- **Communication Capacity**

- WEAVR, HAN, PHIN, 211

- **Training Capacity**

- ICS, EOP, Forensic Epidemiology, HAN, PHET, PPE, TRAIN, Integrated Communications, Public Information Officer, Exercises, Crisis Counseling



Purpose of PHEP

To enable participating institutions and agencies to meet local, regional and state needs in a collaborative and organized manner in the event of bioterrorism, other infectious disease outbreaks and other public health threats and emergencies (BOIDDOOPHTE) and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive (CBRNE) incidents that may involve large numbers of affected individuals.



The PHEP-to-date

- The PHEP is integrated with the Wisconsin Hospital Emergency Preparedness Plan (WHEPP) and County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
- The PHEP is a functional plan.
- Annual updates to the PHEP are based on exercises and/or real public health emergencies.
- Examples of activation of the PHEP:
 - Pertussis, Monkeypox, other local outbreaks





Overview of the PHEP

Part A: Administration

Part B: Operations

Part C: Attachments

Part D: Legal References

Part E: Resource Coordination

Part F: Glossary

Part G: Appendices



Section 3: PHEP

Measuring a public health emergency:

LEVEL 1: LPHD can care for those affected in their jurisdiction.


LEVEL 2: LPHD requires additional community assistance and resources.

LEVEL 3: LPHD requires support from neighboring LPHD, regions, consortiums or states.

LEVEL 4: LPHD requires state or federal support.



Part B: Operation Sections at-a-glance



6. Notification of an Incident

7. PHEP Activation

8. Active Surveillance



9. Mutual Aid

10. Isolation

11. Quarantine & Homecare



12. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

13. Decontamination



14. Disposal of Waste

15. Laboratory Procedures

16. Strategic National Stockpile

17. Mass Clinics

18. PH Role in Triage

19. Responder Workforce

20. Incident Specific Training

21. Special Needs Populations

22. Residential Facilities

23. Transportation

24. Mental Health Services

25. Crisis Communication

26. Integrated Communications

27. Mass Fatality Management

28. Environmental Health & Risks



29. Incident Termination



Section Format

Operations Section format:

- A. Purpose (why the section exists)
- B. Scope (who and what the section applies to)
- C. Concepts of Operations (how activities will take place)
 - 1. Local Public Health Departments
 - 2. WI Department of Health & Family Services
- D. Related documents

Section 6: Notification of an Incident

Purpose: To define the various aspects of notifications and communication between participant organizations during a BOIDDOOPHTE event.

Fast Breaking Incident:

- Notification comes from a credible source.

Slow Developing Incident:

- Monitor situation.
- Follow protocols.
- Communicate with DPH.
- Coordinate with emergency management.



Section 7: PHEP Activation

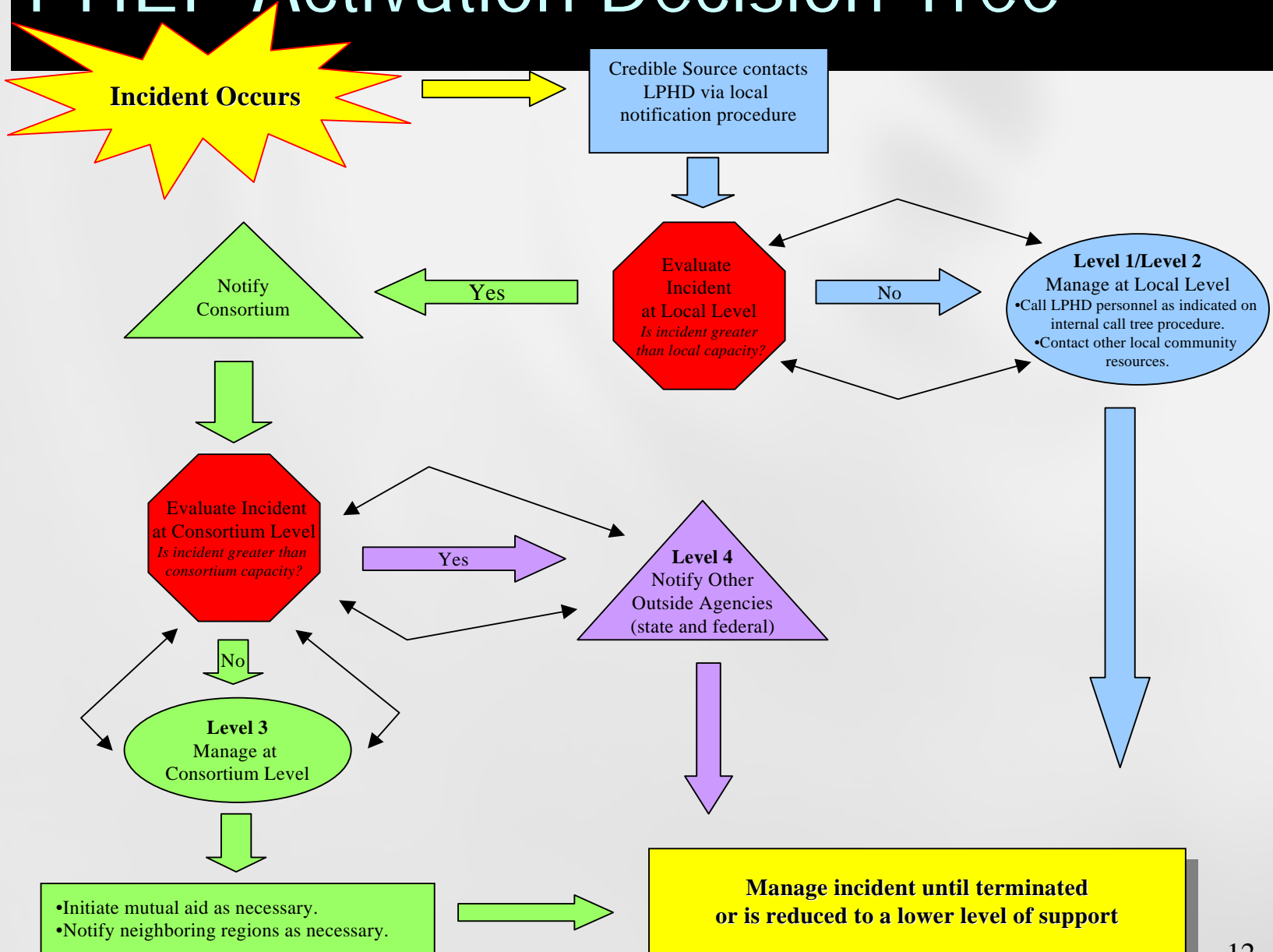
Purpose: To define the activation of the PHEP and supporting locals plans.

LPHD Responsibilities:

- Determine activation of PHEP.
- Send PH rep to the local EOC (if activated).
- Use Incident Command System.
- Update local EOC frequently.



PHEP Activation Decision Tree



Section 8: Active Surveillance

Purpose: To identify and quantify communicable disease and health related incidents. Particularly those caused by or associated with a BOIDDOOPHTE event.

LPHD Responsibilities:

- Initiate surveillance with complete and timely reporting.
- Notify DPH and clinicians of case definition and documentation.
- Report cases and progress on contacts to DPH.
- Implement Communication Plan with clinician and health officers.



Section 9: Mutual Aid

Purpose: Wisconsin Act 186 provides the authority for local health departments to request mutual aid in a situation that warrants an increased capacity due to over-extension.

Activation of Mutual Aid:

- Finding of a state of emergency by local health officer.
- A declaration of state of disaster by governor.
- Local resources are depleted/strained.
- Request mutual aid from another LPHD using the EOC.
- Receiving agency is responsible for personnel and costs associated with receiving mutual aid.
- All response agencies must use the ICS.

Section 10: Isolation

Purpose: To control outbreaks of communicable diseases in health care settings and in the community for symptomatic individuals.

LPHD Responsibilities:

- Initiate, coordinate and enforce isolation.
- Provide basic medical care/daily living needs.
- Coordinate activation of pre-designated isolation facilities.
- Ensure safety of staff through training.
- Notify partners of needed protective practices.

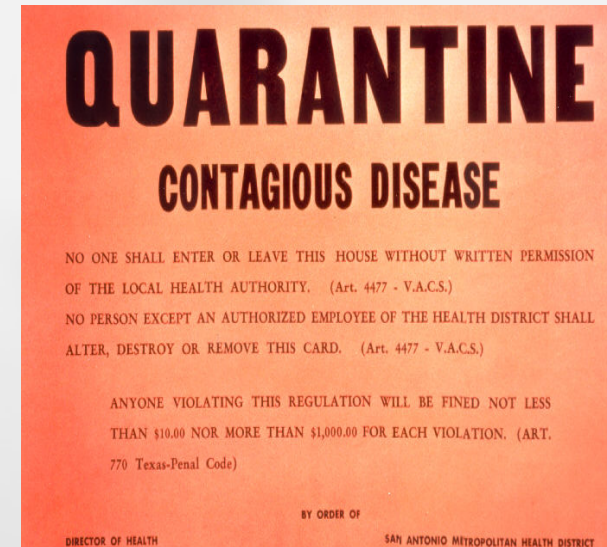


Section 11: Quarantine & Homecare

Purpose: To control the spread of communicable diseases in the community during an infectious disease outbreak while minimizing impact on asymptomatic individuals, families, and communities.

LPHD Responsibilities:

- Same as isolation section.
- Evaluate need for and initiate community quarantine measures.



Section 12: Personal Protective Equipment

Purpose: To ensure that personal protective equipment (PPE) needs for BOIDDOOPHTE and CBRNE incidents are included.

LPHD Responsibilities:

- Staff respond based on their level of training and available PPE (e.g., respiratory protection programs).
- Responses required beyond LPHD capabilities will be referred to appropriate agency.
- PPE may be needed for environmental assessments and sampling.
- Consult with DPH/BEOH as needed.



Section 13: Decontamination

Purpose: See State of Wisconsin Hospital Emergency Preparedness Plan (WHEPP) and County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

LPHD Responsibility: NONE



Section 14: Disposal of Waste

Purpose: To provide guidance for the safe disposal of infectious waste in the case of a BIODOPHTE/CBRNE incident that may generate a large amount of infectious waste in a short period of time or over a sustained period of time.

LPHD Responsibility:

Biological Waste

- Increased inventory of supplies.
- Store waste under refrigeration.
- Ensure infectious waste separated from solid waste.
- Infectious waste must be secure.
- Accurate record keeping.



Section 15: Laboratory Procedures

Purpose: To provide laboratory support to local and state public health agencies in an emergency.

LPHD Responsibility:

- Access event-specific information of specimen submission from WSLH.
- Notify labs within jurisdiction of event.
- Provide guidance to labs, health care providers, and other responders on specimen submission.
- Package and transport specimens.
- Disseminate results.
- Participate in lab debriefing.

Section 16: Strategic National Stockpile

Purpose: To redistribute federal assets of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to LPHDs, tribal health centers and medical treatment facilities in response to bioterrorism or other public health emergencies.



LPHD Responsibilities:

- Liaison to Receiving Staging Storing (RSS) warehouse.
- Secure/request/receive SNS material.
- Provide backup transportation if necessary.
- Manage inventory (report to the local EOC).
- Return unused material.

Section 17: Mass Clinics

Purpose: To operate a mass clinic to vaccinate/prophylaxis a population in response to a terrorist incident or other public health emergency.

LPHD Responsibilities:

- Secure facilities.
- Mobilize volunteers.
- Address the media.
- Initiate Mass Clinic Plan.
- Manage client information.



Section 18: PH Role in Triage

Purpose: To identify and quantify in a mass exposure or illness situation ill, injured, and/or exposed individuals outside of traditional pre-hospital/emergency room/clinic/hospital care so that they may be treated appropriately, and the spread of any communicable illness reduced or prevented.

LPHD Responsibilities:

During a mass clinic

- Triage prior to entrance to clinic.
- Coordinate transportation of clients to medical facility.
- Immediate isolation of possible cases.
- Receive triage count and case status information from clinicians/hospitals; transmit to DPH.



Section 19: Responder Workforce

Purpose: To temporarily increase the capacity to organize and utilize state, regional, and local resources necessary to respond to and assure the health and safety of the population in a public health incident.

LPHD Responsibilities:

- Enlist Volunteers.
 - Local process
 - WEAVR
- Deploy Volunteers.
 - Identify/Credential
 - Incident Briefing/Just in Time
- EOC to coordinate credentialing.
- Follow-up with volunteers.

Section 20: Incident Specific Training

Purpose: To identify and provide incident specific training which may be necessary to respond to a BOIDOOOPHTE Incident.

LPHD Responsibilities:

- Determine if any training is needed and type needed.
- Coordinate with emergency management and partners to deliver consistent training.
- Maintain documentation of training provided.
- Communicate with DHFS.



Section 21: Special Needs Populations

Purpose: To assure that special population needs are recognized and receive appropriate intervention and response during a public health incident.

LPHD Responsibilities:

- Identify special populations.
- Develop plan to address their needs.
- Coordinate with human services to meet communication, transportation, and treatment needs.



Section 22: Residential Facilities

Purpose: To coordinate with human services and emergency management to assure that the needs of individuals within residential facilities (e.g., nursing homes, rehabilitation and psychiatric hospitals, assisted living facilities and other such facilities licensed or certified by the State) are met during a public health incident.

LPHD Responsibilities:

Provide guidance on:

- Treatment.
- Containing an outbreak.
- Assure they receive appropriate prophylaxis.
- Coordinate with partners to provide essential services.

Section 23: Transportation

Purpose: To ensure that transportation resources needed during public health emergencies are included and available in response and recovery plans.



LPHD Responsibilities:

- EMS will transport/transfer patients.
- LPHD provide technical health-related information to responders.



Section 24: Mental Health Services

Purpose: To minimize the negative psychosocial effects of public health threats and emergencies on individuals (including people with special needs), families, communities, service systems, and the emergency response as a whole.



LPHD Responsibilities:

- Coordinate with local human services.
- Provide information regarding the event and response measures.
- Inform, consult, and coordinate with mental health, substance abuse, human services.
- Provide accurate, understandable, non-stigmatizing, non-sensationalizing, and culturally and linguistically appropriate public information regarding emergency.

Section 25: Crisis Communication

Purpose: To ensure that during a BOIDDOOPHTE event risk communication principles will be utilized in delivering information to the public through every appropriate channel.

LPHD Responsibilities:

- Identify primary and back-up PIO(s).
- Inform communities about the incident in coordination with partners.
- PIO(s) coordinate to ensure consistent messages are being delivered.





Section 26: Integrated Communications

Purpose: To identify the primary and redundant communications capabilities that are required in a LPHD for that department to adequately respond to an emergency and to identify the extent to which that department has those resources available.

LPHD Responsibilities:

- Maintain list of alternate communication systems.
- Designate a communications hub.
 - All communication directed to communications hub.
 - Communications hub responsible for relaying manual or electronic communications.
 - Communications hub will log all communications.
- If EOC is activated, designate individual to coordinate between communications hub and EOC.

Section 27: Mass Fatality Management

Purpose: To successfully activate and manage a County Mass Fatality Mortuary Plan (CMFMP).

LPHD Responsibilities:

- Participate to ensure proper communication with public health agencies.
- Assist in collaboration with partners to ensure support services for critical incident debriefing and family grief assistance.
- Invoke public health powers as needed for management of incident.
- Work with partners to ensure safe transport and disposal of infected human remains and waste.
- Work with regional hazmat to ensure decontamination of facilities.





Section 28: Environmental Health & Risks

Purpose: To ensure that during an BOIDDOOPHTE incident, environmental health concerns and risks are addressed.

LPHD Responsibilities:

- Conduct environmental assessments and collect samples, if trained environmental health staff available.
- Consult with DPH/BEOH, WSLH, DNR, and hazmat when assistance is needed regarding environmental assessments/investigations.
- Have notification numbers accessible.

Section 29: Incident Termination

The Incident Commander or EOC, if activated, will notify all participating agencies and institutions involved under the PHEP that the incident is terminated.



Exercise

- Insert local public health incident that warrants use of the PHEP (use local examples if possible). Walk agency through the PHEP using this example (e.g., pertussis, monkeypox, etc.).
- Or insert some type of review (e.g., Q&A, quiz, etc.).



Wrap Up

- Questions, Comments, Concerns
- Next Steps
- Evaluation



Contact Information



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<http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/preparedness/>